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The dorms here are completely different now. Even the old dorms that need so much repair are new from when I was here 17 years ago. The places where we lived then are all gone now. Most of the squadron areas are different as well. I think the Air Force has stepped up to take care of its people at Kunsan, although not as early or as much as they should have. Part of my job is to keep the improvements coming.

**Q:** Your last position was as Commandant of the U.S. Air Force Weapons School at Nellis AFB. How do you think that position prepared you to lead the nation's premier fighter wing?

**A:** The weapons school has a big part of my heart. It's the premier war fighting school in the world and, I'd argue, the toughest training we do in the Air Force. For the past year, I've been hanging out with some of the best war fighters in the Air Force, and anytime you get to spend some time in a place of excellence, you get better yourself. Just by being there and having that war fighter focus was the perfect lead-in to a place like Kunsan, where war fighting is our one and only mission. This is where it really happens.

**Q:** You've had a diverse background, including an assignment as the executive officer to the USAFE commander. What has been your most challenging assignment to date?

**A:** Command itself is the most challenging assignment because you make decisions that affect people. Everything and every angle must be considered before a decision is made. If you miss something, it can affect a person's job, training, career and life. Command has a big responsibility that goes with it. That's what makes it challenging.

**Q:** In the past year, Kunsan has seen an improvement in quality of life, including new one-plus-one dormitories and a new golf course clubhouse. In the works now are also plans to build a new commissary next year. Are there any other particular areas you plan to focus on in the QOL arena?

**A:** There are plenty of areas to work on, but I think the dorms, the hardened aircraft shelters and the munitions storage areas are the big three. All of those we still need to focus on. Another big part of that is the communications infrastructure. The 21st century Air Force needs instant connectivity for command and control. It's vital that the Wolf Pack do its part in keeping with that role.

**Q:** This past year has also been chocked full of achievements. How do you plan on keeping that momentum of success and focus going for the troops?

**A:** Success is no stranger to Kunsan. We're going to continue those great things and continue to get the great people to do those great things coming here. As a commander, I have to trust that when our people come to work they're going to want to continue kicking butt out there. My job as commander is to show the rest of the Air Force

just how hard the Wolf Pack is kicking butt so we continue to get the rewards and awards at both the unit and individual levels. As a wing commander, I'm pretty passionate about my job and everyone here needs to be just as passionate. But that goes back to what I said earlier, Wolf Pack people are passionate about the job and the mission here, which is why I can't think of anywhere else I'd rather be.

Everyone comes here and does well, that's one of the Wolf Pack's traditions. The mission forces us to succeed. It's up to everyone here to carry on that tradition.

**Q:** Next year's mission readiness measuring stick is the Pacific Air Forces Unit Compliance Inspection. What kind of advice can you give the wing to begin preparing for it?

**A:** The secret to the UCI will be to focus on the mission. We're warfighters. Moreover, we're war-winners. If we keep focused on that, if we train to dominate the enemy, then we will dominate the UCI. A UCI is no different than an operational readiness inspection. It's showing that we can turn the enemy into a puddle of protoplasm. The mission defines what we're all about. When we show that we can do our mission and are compliant with all the regulations laid out to do our mission, then the Inspector General's team will walk out of here saying that the Wolf Pack is awesome.

**Q:** What do you see as your biggest challenge as commander of the 8th Fighter Wing?

**A:** Keeping up with all of you guys. There are so many talented people here, there are so many smart folks out there, there are so many people that are not only good at their jobs, but are the experts in the field. Just keeping up with all of you and being able to get everyone the right resources is going to be the biggest challenge here.

**Q:** What philosophy or motto would you say best describes your method of leadership?

**A:** There's a lot of ways to look at leadership and the ways to be a good leader, but what it all boils down to is trust and loyalty, both up and down the chain of command. To be a good leader in my mind means surrounding myself with the best people and pointing them in the right direction, making sure they have the training and resources to do their job and then getting out of their way. People come to work to succeed and do a good job. Leaders need to support their efforts.

**Q:** What are your first words of advice to the Wolf Pack?

**A:** There's lots of work here to do, but everyone needs to keep their lives in balance and to make time for both themselves and their families. Service before self is more pertinent and meaningful to the Wolf Pack than anywhere else in the world. One thing we can't forget here is our families. We need to be very attuned to what we're putting them through.

Col. Burt Field addresses the Wolf Pack Tuesday at Hangar 3. Field comes to Kunsan after serving as the Air Force Weapons School commandant at Nellis AFB, Nev. This is Field's second Kunsan tour. He was previously stationed here in 1984 as an 80th Fighter Squadron instructor pilot.



Photos by TSgt Morrison  
Staff Sgt. Luis Blanco and Senior Airman Mark Bragel, 35th Fighter Squadron crew chief, unveil Col. Burt Field's name on his F-16.

